REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed on June 17, 2004. Claims 1 and 3-21 are pending in the application with Claims 1, 9, 10 and 12 being in independent form. By the present amendment, Claims 1, 9, 10 and 12 have been amended. No new matter or issues are believed to be introduced by the amendments.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 3-8 and 10-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 10 and 12 have been amended in a manner which is believed to overcome the rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14 and 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,442,149 issued to Nakano et al. on August 27, 2002 ("Nakano et al.") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,084,888 issued to Watanabe et al. on July 4, 2000 ("Watanabe et al."); these claims were also rejected by Nakano et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,742,599 issued to Lin et al. on April 21, 1998 ("Lin et al.").

Independent Claims 1, 9, 10 and 12 have been amended to better define Applicant's invention and to overcome the above-noted rejections. In particular, Claims 1, 9, 10 and 12 have been amended to structurally differentiate Applicant's network and wireless network node from the disclosure provided by the cited references. Claim 1 has been amended to recite the following:

> A network comprising:
> several network clusters each having at least one wireless network node and <u>at least one fixed network node, each of said at least one fixed network node being coupled to a respective wireless network node of said at least one wireless network node via a respective wire interface</u>, each of said at least one wireless network node including a transmitter for the wireless transmission of packets in time slots of given length in a time multiplex process, the variable length of said packets having at least a value which is smaller than the length of a fixedly given time slot,

wherein a transmitting wireless network node of said wireless network nodes is configured for combining several packets into a superpacket and for transmitting the superpacket to all wireless network nodes authorized for the data transmission via a point-to-multipoint link, and
wherein a receiving wireless network node of said wireless network nodes after reception of the superpacket is designed to derive a packet from the superpacket if the destination of the packet of said transmitted packets lies in a network cluster corresponding to said receiving wireless network node;
said transmitting wireless network node being configured for segmenting the superpacket into cells when the length of the superpacket exceeds the length of the fixedly given time slots, and for inserting the cells into several time slots, and
said receiving wireless network node which receives the cells being configured for forming the superpacket from the cells. (Emphasis added)

Claim 12 has been amended to include similar limitations as the limitations added to Claim 1 and underlined above.

Claim 9 has been amended to recite the following:

A wireless network node in a network cluster of a network, said wireless network node including a transmitter designed for the wireless transmission of packets in time slots of given length in a time multiplex process, the variable length of said packets having at least a value which is smaller than the length of a fixedly given time slot,
wherein the wireless network node is designed for combining several packets into a superpacket and for transmitting said superpacket via a point-to-multipoint connection to all wireless network nodes authorized for the data transmission; and
said wireless network node being further configured for segmenting said superpacket into cells when the length of the superpacket exceeds the length of the fixedly given time slot, and for inserting the cells into several time slots so that a receiving wireless network node which receives the cells forms said superpacket from the cells;
<u>said wireless network node further including means for coupling to at least one fixed network node via a respective wire interface</u>. (Emphasis added)

Claim 10 has been amended to include similar limitations as the limitations added to Claim 9 and underlined above.

None of the cited references taken alone or in any proper combination disclose or suggest the above-underlined limitations which have been added to Claims 1, 9, 10 and 12 to structurally differentiate Applicant's network and wireless network node from the disclosure of the cited references. In particular, none of the references taken alone or in any proper

combination disclose or suggest a network comprising several network clusters each having at least one wireless network node and at least one fixed network node, each of the at least one fixed network node being coupled to a respective wireless network node of the at least one wireless network node via a respective wire interface, as recited by Applicant's Claim 1.

Further, none of the references taken alone or in any proper combination disclose or suggest a wireless network node in a network cluster of a network where the wireless network node includes a transmitter designed for the wireless transmission of packets in time slots of given length in a time multiplex process, and the wireless network node further includes means for coupling to at least one fixed network node via a respective wire interface, as recited by Applicant's Claim 9.

Additionally, none of the references taken alone or in any proper combination disclose or suggest a wireless network node in a network cluster of a network where the wireless network node includes a receiver designed for the wireless reception of packets in time slots of given length in a time multiplex process, and the wireless network node further includes means for coupling to at least one fixed network node via a respective wire interface, as recited by Applicant's Claim 10.

Finally, none of the references taken alone or in any proper combination disclose or suggest a network comprising a plurality of network clusters each including a wireless network node and at least one fixed network node, each of the at least one fixed network node being coupled to a respective wireless network node of the plurality of network clusters via a respective wire interface, as recited by Applicant's Claim 12.

Accordingly, it is believed that Applicant's Claims 1, 9, 10 and 12 recite patentable subject matter, and therefore, withdrawal of the rejections with respect to Claims 1, 9, 10 and 12 and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 4, 13, 14 and 19-21 depend from Claims 1, 10 and 12, and therefore include the limitations of Claims 1, 10 and 12. Accordingly, for the same reasons given above for Claims 1, 10 and 12, Claims 3, 4, 13, 14 and 19-21 are believed to contain patentable subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections with respect to Claims 3, 4, 13, 14 and 19-21 and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

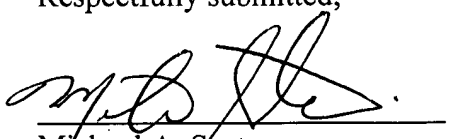
Claims 5, 6, 11, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakano et al. in view of Watanabe et al. and Lin et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,936,949 issued to Paternak et al. on August 10, 1999; and Claims 7, 8, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakano et al. in view of Watanabe et al. and Lin et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,940,381 issued to Freeburg et al. on August 17, 1999.

Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 13, 14 and 17-21 depend from Claims 1, 10 and 12, and therefore include the limitations of Claims 1, 10 and 12. Accordingly, for the same reasons given above for Claims 1, 10 and 12, Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 13, 14 and 17-21 are believed to contain patentable subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections with respect to Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 13, 14 and 17-21 and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims presently pending in the application, namely, Claims 1 and 3-21, are believed to be in condition for allowance and patentably distinguishable over the art of record.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call Dicran Halajian, Esq., Intellectual Property Counsel, Philips Electronics North America, at 914-333-9607.

Respectfully submitted,



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